

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th December 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT C Expectant Mothers Day 23rd December 2018

Saturday 22nd 6.00pm Maureen & Edward Jones RIP
Sunday 23rd 9.00am Intentions of Mr & Mrs Benting (Benting)
December 2018 11.00am People of our Parish

MONDAY 24th DECEMBER 2018: CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm Deceased members of the Lennon/Lechley Families
9.00pm Private Intention (JM)

TUESDAY 25th DECEMBER 2018: CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am David, Cleonagh & Kieran Jolly RIP (Jolly)
11.00am People of our Parish

Wednesday 26th December 2018: St Stephen, Deacon & First Christian Martyr

10.00am John McInerney RIP 1st Anniversary

Thursday 27th December 2018: St John, Apostle & Evangelist

10.00am Private Intention

Friday 28th December 2018: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

10.00am Private Intention

Saturday 29th December 2018: Patron Saint of the Pastoral Clergy in England

10.00am Private Intention

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 30 December 2018

Saturday 29th 6.00pm Private Intention

Sunday 30th 9.00am People of our Parish
11.00am Mrs Mary McCarthy RIP (Holland)

December 2018 3.00pm Sung Latin Mass in the Tridentine Rite (See notice)

SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturday 11am to 12 noon & 5.15 to 5.40pm

MORNING PRAYER of DIVINE OFFICE 15 minutes before weekday Mass

BLESSED SACRAMENT: Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after weekday Mass

PARISH MASS BOOK: FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT C 23rd December 2018

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Page 11 The Nicene Creed Page 43 The Communion Rite,

Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 92 Post Communion Prayer

PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME: Please inform a Priest or hospital Chaplain if you, your relative or a parishioner is ill at home or in hospital so they can have visits from a priest and receive the Sacraments to give them healing and strength from God.

OFFERINGS: Offertories last weekend: Envelopes £378.50, Loose £245.06,

Standing Orders: £800, CAFOD £55.06. Thank you for your great generosity.

MY DAY BY DAY FOR INFANTS & JUNIORS & WALK WITH ME for adults

is available free in our church to use in preparation for Christmas. A **Christian Advent calendar** is also available free in the church.

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



11 Church Hill, Epping, Essex, CM16 4RA

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Registered Charity Number: 234092

Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT C Expectant Mothers' Day 23.12.2018

Dear Friends,

“Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, gave a loud cry and said to Mary, ‘of all women you are the most blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb’”(Lk.1:39-45). The fourth Sunday of Advent is a Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers. Mary, a young mother, rejoices in God her Saviour whom she was carrying in her womb, in the person of Jesus. She goes to visit and assist her aged cousin, Elizabeth, who is carrying her child John the Baptist in her womb. In this Visitation by our Lady to Elizabeth, the Spirit of God, by which Mary conceived Jesus, leaps as it were from Jesus in her womb, to Elizabeth and John her child, and fills them with joy.

Elizabeth asks: “Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?” Mary responded by offering her hymn of thanksgiving and rejoicing in “The Magnificat” (Luke 1:46-55). She gave all the glory and praise to “God, the Almighty, who has done great things for me” and chose his lowly servant to be the Mother of the Saviour. Eve, the first mother in the Old Testament, was mother to sinful mankind. Mary, the first mother in the New Testament, is the mother of redeemed mankind. Just as sin and condemnation came into the world through Eve and her children, redemption and forgiveness come into the world through Mary the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Mary recognised that God had chosen and honoured her not for any merits of her own and she praised God for all he had done for her. We can well use her words to praise and thank God for all he does for us.

Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, has a message of peace from God to people of goodwill. God places in the human hearts an expectancy and desire for peace and reconciliation at Christmas. In this season he calls for divisions to be healed, hatreds abandoned, enemies reconciled and hatred converted into love. Christmas can be difficult for families who are beset by divisions, hostilities or resentments. Families coming together at Christmas have a sense that they are intended, by God, to be united in love and to go forward together as people who are freed from past hurts. So, whilst the message of peace to people of good will was given over two thousand years ago at Christmas, it is a message which is addressed to each one of us today and is ever old and ever new.

We pray that the Christmas message of peace to people of goodwill be listened to at Christmas so that “God may impart to human hearts the blessing of his heaven”.

May Christ, the Prince of Peace bless you, your families and friends. Fr John

WE PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS WHO DIED RECENTLY:

GIOVANNI BORELLI RIP, died on Wednesday, 19 December. His Funeral will be celebrated in Epping & in Italy. Arrangements pending. **May he rest in peace.**

We offer our sympathy to and prayers for his family and the repose of his soul. May the Lord send his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to console them at this time.

CHRISTINGLE The Children will make Christingles during 11am Mass, this Sunday, 23rd December, in our church hall.

OUR PARISH CAROL SERVICE & CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY will be at 6pm this Sunday 23rd December. Preparation for the children will start in our hall at 4pm. We need lots of children to take parts in both services, and 4 teenagers to read and someone to sing at the Carol Service. Please telephone Nora Nolan on 01992 577932 or e-mail here at: jim.nolan@ntlworld.com

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES IN OUR PARISH:

Christmas Eve Masses at 6.00pm and 9.00m for CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am

Boxing Day Mass 10.00am and the same time for Thursday and Friday.

CTED CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON: We invite anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day to join us for a traditional lunch & celebration in our Church Hall on **25 December, 12.30pm for 1pm**. Couples & carers may apply and transport can be provided. Places are limited, so please telephone Mary Morgan on 01992 574719 or contact Fr John or Deacon Duncan. We need to help bring our guests to the Hall and take them home around 3.30pm. Also donations of small gifts, desserts and Christmas goodies are welcome. The Hall will be open in the morning, on Christmas Eve, to receive your donations. Yours help is always deeply appreciated.

EPPING FOODBANK: Epping Foodbank is very busy at this time of year and needs are great. Tinned & packed items are needed. Toiletries, household cleaning and hygiene items are welcome, as are Christmas food treats. Please leave your donations in the box in our church porch. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please make the envelope "Foodbank" and leave it at the Priest's House. Thank you for your generosity.

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE on Sunday 23 December at 4 pm with Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral. A service of readings, carols & beautiful choral music from the Cathedral choir to prepare for Christmas. All are welcome.

WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS: Service of the word and Holy Communion from Monday the 31st December to Thursday 3rd January 2019 inclusive.

FULL SUNG LATIN MASS with Gregorian Chant on **Sunday 30th December at 3pm** in our Church. Come, pray and sing the Mass of our Church for nearly 2000 years. *All very Welcome!*




ALL WRAPPED UP: Many thanks to the team of volunteers who gave their time to provide a Christmas present wrapping service in our parish last weekend. All proceeds were donated to the parish.

THE VISION DOCUMENT: "Shaping our future in our Diocese" comes from the Stewards of the Gospel consultation programme in our Diocese. It is available free at the back of the Church. You can see how it may affect the parishes in this area.



'FLAME 2' YOUTH EVENT AT WEMBLEY – 2nd MARCH 2019

About 14-21 years old? If so this Youth Event is **especially for you.**

-  Attend with 10,000 other young people. World-known speakers and singers.
-  Travel by underground to and from Wembley Centre. Your total cost is £10
-  Details on line: cymfed.org.uk/flame2019 or on our church noticeboard

Names & cheques to James Ryan, Fr John or Deacon Duncan. Tickets in short supply,

APF RED MISSIO BOXES: Please hand in boxes to the Sacristy or Priest's House ASAP. **Please do NOT leave boxes with money in Church Porch.** When emptied and counted, boxes are labelled and left in the Porch to be collected by the owners. **Your money helps Mill Hill Missionaries support poor communities overseas.** If you wish to have a Red Missio Box to give small change to this charity, please contact Elaine Garwood, our Missio Organiser, on egarwood@live.co.uk. Every little helps! There are additional boxes in the Church porch - please take one if you would like to help the missions in poor countries - don't forget to put your name on your box.

FOR HALL BOOKINGS contact Arnold Verrall, preferably by telephone, on 01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping) or mobile 07764404813 or by email arnold_verrall@email.com. **Preferential rates are for parishioners & charities.**

USED POSTAGE STAMPS Please save used postage stamps and place them in the Used Stamps box in our Church porch, which is on the bottom shelf under the post tray. The stamps will be given to St Clare Hospice, and can be exchanged for money.

UK POWER NETWORKS & PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER:

How would you cope if you had no electricity for a short while? In the rare event of a power cut, you can get help from UK Power Networks. This company looks after the electricity network in your parish (no matter who you pay your energy bill to) and also runs a free Priority Services Register for people with medical needs, families with babies and the elderly. Being on the Register gives you free access during a power cut to services including a welcome pack with useful advice about preparing for a power cut, a home visit by our staff or the British Red Cross and a 24-hour priority phone number. To join the Priority Services Register for extra help during a power cut call: 0800 169 9970, email: psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk, visit: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority

SONGS OF PRAISE: The Assistant Producer has contacted the Diocese as she is working on an episode that will go out on Sunday 10th February with the theme of St Valentine. She is looking for any couples in our parish who have been married for 50+ years and are due to renew their vows in January. It is hoped that filming will be on Sunday 20th January. The Service will be filmed and the couples asked to speak about the importance of marriage, family and a strong faith. If you are interested then please let Fr John know or email maryhuntington@dioceseofbrentwood.org.